

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

EO
#1722

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 1043 2X

June 30, 2011

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

() Notice of Exemption (X) Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

(X) **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on May 27, 2011, for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended no environmental conditions.

In an email dated May 27, 2011, the Town of Van Buren's Town Manager responded to the EA and noted the following: 1) only the Maine Department of Transportation could determine if vehicles would meet the existing roadway weight limits and 2) the Town of Van Buren would prefer that the railroad's new reload facility be located within its new Industrial Park.

OEA has provided electronic copies of the EA to the following Maine Department of Transportation Divisions: Region 5, Freight, and Environmental for review and comment and verified receipt via email receipt and telephone. OEA notes that the Maine Department has not responded.

Conclusions

OEA notes that the location of the railroad's reload facility were, according to the Town of Van Buren, determined by the U.S. General Services Administration. OEA also notes that the Maine Department of Transportation has not indicated that it has any concerns regarding the proposed relocation of truck traffic onto a State roadway to access the proposed new reload facility.

OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends no conditions should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority.

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